



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JAMES B. HUNT JR.  
GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
P.O. BOX 25201, RALEIGH, N.C. 27611-5201

GARLAND B. GARRETT JR.  
SECRETARY

December 5, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: Nicholas L. Graf, P.E., FHWA  
Don Goins, P.E., Chief Engineer  
Don Morton, P.E., Deputy Administrator  
Preconstruction  
✓ Jimmy Lynch, P.E., State Traffic Engineer  
Len Hill, P.E., State Design Engineer  
Frank Vick, P.E., Manager Planning and  
Environmental  
Whit Webb, P.E., Manager Program Development

FROM: Marion R. Poole, Ph.D., P.E.  
Manager Statewide Planning

SUBJECT: Policy on Desirable Levels of Service for  
State Highway System Streets and Highways in  
Urban Areas

A policy on desirable levels of service for State Highway System streets and highways in urban areas was established on May 21, 1962, by approval of the Highway Commission Planning Board. During work on the congestion management system, the Statewide Planning Branch concluded an update of this policy guidance was warranted.

A draft of the proposed revised policy was first prepared on May 11, 1995. This draft and succeeding drafts have been reviewed by Highway Design and the Planning and Research Branch. The attached amended and updated policy dated October 29, 1997 is the result of this review process. The revised policy is to serve as a guide for future transportation planning work.

Significant changes in the policy include:

1. Provision for an urban freeway facilities class that will serve primarily local urban area traffic at a level of service lower than is provided by Interstate and other primary freeways, but higher than is typical of arterials.
2. Inclusion of Parkway as a facility class.
3. A more stringent definition for expressway.
4. A broader more inclusive definition for urban arterial.

cc. Dr. Larry R. Goode, P.E., w/encl.  
Mr. Calvin Leggett, P.E. w/encl.

